

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical device (1) for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated body cavity (2) accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device (1), surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device (1) having:

body cavity engagement means (5) for insertion into the incision to locate the device (1) in position;

fixing means (6) for attaching the device to a ~~patients~~ patient's skin, the
fixing means including a proximal ring (6);

a sleeve (4) connectable between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, wherein the sleeve is adjustable by the positioning of the proximal ring so that the positioning of the proximal ring retracts the sleeve to cause the sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body to retract the incision to define an access port and create a seal between the incision and sleeve;
~~characterized in that~~

~~the fixing means is a proximal ring (6); and~~

~~the sleeve is adjustable by the positioning of the proximal ring;~~

~~the positioning of the proximal ring retracting the sleeve to define an access port and create a seal between the incision and sleeve;~~

~~the proximal ring (6) having an associated connector ring (7) for receiving additional seals or medical instruments; and~~

sealing means, at least one of mounted on the sleeve and operating on the sleeve, operating on the sleeve to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an inoperative position and formed to mould about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim of claim 1~~ in which the body cavity engagement means (5) is provided by a distal ring (5) formed for insertion into the incision.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim of claim 2~~, in which the distal ring has an associated cuff valve (8) ~~operating on the internal faces of an impermeable film, the film being located between semi-rigid actuators, the actuators in turn being secured in substantially parallel manner to a distal end of~~ self-sealing valve mounted on the sleeve.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim 3~~, in which ~~the actuators are housed in opposing cuffs, each cuff being formed by folding an end of a distal tube to form a pocket for reception of the actuator of claim 1,~~ further including a connector ring (7) mounted adjacent said proximal ring.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim 6 of claim 2~~, in which the fixing means (6) incorporates adjustment means for modifying the length of the sleeve, so as to ensure that the fixing means (6)[[,]] and the distal ring (5) and valves (8,18,28,38) may be brought into close contact with the abdominal wall ensuring a good seal is maintained and that the device (1) is firmly mounted in position.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim of claim 1~~, in which the sleeve is made of an elastomer material, whereby insertion of the distal ring into an incision stretches the elastomer material causing tension between the distal ring and proximal ring.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device ~~as claimed in Claim 6~~, in which ~~the self-sealing valve (18,28,38) of claim 1,~~ wherein said sealing means is an external proximal valve.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical~~ The surgical device as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 9 in which the self-sealing valve (18,28,38) of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is an internal distal valve.

11. (Currently Amended) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device comprising:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position, said body cavity engagement means including a distal ring including a distal ring;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, said fixing means including a proximal ring;

a sleeve ~~connectable~~ connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, said sleeve having an adjustable length that shortens to cause said sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body sufficient to retract the incision to define the access port; and

one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring, a sealing means mounted on at least one of the distal ring and the proximal ring to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an operative position and formed to mold about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

12. (Currently Amended) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device comprising:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position, said body cavity engagement means including a distal ring;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, said fixing means including a proximal ring;

a sleeve ~~connectable~~ connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, said sleeve having a length;

wherein said proximal ring includes an adjustment means for adjusting the length of said sleeve to cause said sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body sufficient to retract sides of the incision; and

one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring, a
~~sealing means mounted on at least one of the distal ring and the proximal ring~~ to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an operative position and formed to mold about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

13. (New) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

14. (New) The surgical device of claim 11, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

15. (New) The surgical device of claim 12, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

16. (New) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.

17. (New) The surgical device of claim 11, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.

18. (New) The surgical device of claim 12, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.